

AMENDED CLAIMS MARKED UP TO SHOW CHANGES
SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)
IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JULY 30, 2002

CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) An absorbent article having a longitudinal center line and a lateral centerline, an inner surface and a garment facing surface, comprising:
 - (b) a containment assembly having a rear waist region, a crotch region, a front waist region, a pair of longitudinal edges, a body facing surface and a garment facing surface opposite to the body facing surface, the containment assembly comprising a topsheet, a backsheet joined to the topsheet, an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet, and a pair of barrier leg cuffs having a proximal edge and a distal edge and being positioned adjacent to the longitudinal edges of the containment assembly;
 - (b) a pair of rear ear panels extending laterally outwardly from the proximal edges of the barrier leg cuff in the rear waist region;
 - (c) a pair of front ear panels extending laterally outwardly from the proximal edges of the barrier leg cuff in the front waist region; and
 - (d) a reinforcement nonwoven joined immediately adjacent to an inner-facing surface of the backsheet and to at least one of either the rear ear panels or the front ear panels so as to form a portion of the garment surface of the absorbent article, the reinforcement nonwoven not substantially overlapping the containment assembly.

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice.

3. (Amended) The absorbent article of claim [2] 1 wherein the rear ear panels comprise extensions of the barrier leg cuff in the rear waist region.